

# SPAWN®

image

232

DIGITAL  
EDITION



McFARIANE  
ILLUSTRATED  
BY GREG V

FCO



# Celebrity Savior Part 5

## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

In an effort to gain the upper hand, Clown tracks down an agent of Heaven he believes may hold answers to origins of Jim's great power. Unfortunately, the agent's mind has been fractured after her last, violent run-in with Clown, leaving her mental state and memories less than reliable.

Unable to get the information he seeks, Clown offers the agent an ultimatum—his quest for control over Jim and the K7-Leetha will not be deterred.

Meanwhile, Jim's violent awakening continues as he finally begins to understand the depths of the K7's darkness, and the frightening reality of just how little control he actually has.



**Jim Downing (Spawn)** – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



**K7-Leetha** – The hell-born symbiote that was once bound to the Al Simmons, is now attached to Jim Downing. As the symbiote begins to slowly exert more influence only time will tell just how dangerous this loyal soldier of Hell truly is.

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New York City.



The Alleyways.  
12:32 A.M.



I KNOW  
YOU'RE  
HERE. SO  
STOP HIDING.  
IT'S ME...

SUSAN.

THAT'S NICE.  
I LIKE THAT YOU'RE  
ADAPTING SO QUICKLY  
TO YOUR NEW BODY.  
I KNEW IT'D BE A  
GOOD MATCH.

THOUGH I  
WOULDN'T GET TOO USED  
TO IT. YOU KNOW HOW FAST  
THE HUMAN STRUCTURES BURN  
OUT. NOW... WHAT DO I OWE THIS  
PLEASURE? SINCE YOU SEEM TO  
BE SO-- *CLOSE TO HIM* THESE  
DAYS-- I'M HOPING IT'S SOME-  
THING USEFUL ABOUT  
DOWNING.

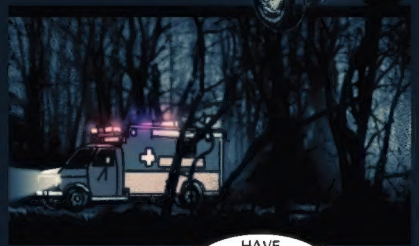
IT IS. AND  
WAIT 'TIL YOU  
HEAR WHAT  
I'VE GOT.











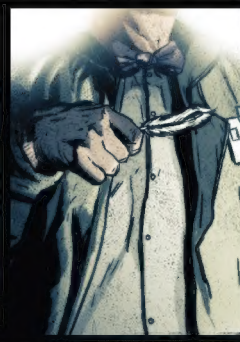
PUT  
HER  
IN ROOM  
28.



HAVE  
YOU SEEN THE  
TWO HUGE SCARS  
ON HER BACK?  
SOMEONE DID SOME-  
THING HORRIBLE TO  
HER. THE POOR  
THING.













"...BY THAT PANICKED LOOK IN YOUR EYES-- RIGHT BEFORE I TORE THEM OFF! SORRY ABOUT THOSE SCARS IT LEFT."



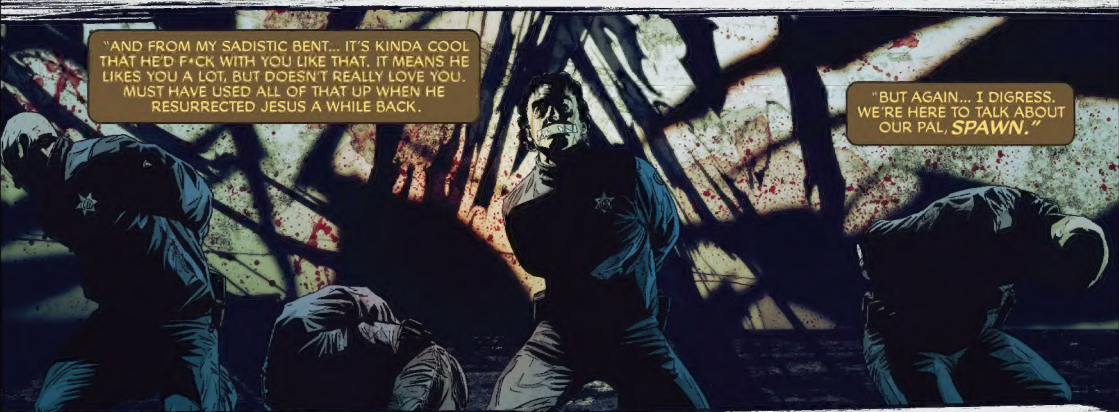
"BUT... I'M NOT HERE TO REMINISCE. I NEED YOU TO TALK. AND I DON'T PLAN ON LEAVING UNTIL YOU DO."

"PROBLEM IS, THE MOMENT I RELIEVED YOU OF YOUR WINGS-- WAS THE SAME MOMENT YOU STARTED GOING INSANE."



"AND BEFORE YOU GIVE ME THAT ACCUSATORY LOOK-- YOUR BOSS WAS THE ONE THAT PUT THAT RULE INTO PLAY. ASK GOD WHY HE BUILT YOU SO THAT WHENEVER ONE OF HIS ANGELS LOST THEIR WINGS THEY INSTANTLY TURN CRAZY."


"MY GUESS IS THAT IT'S SOME KIND OF DEFENSE MECHANISM. HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION OF WHAT YOU USED TO BE. THAT WAY YOU CAN'T BE OF ANY USE TO THE ENEMIES IN CASE YOU ARE CAPTURED AND TORTURED."




"AND FROM MY SADISTIC BENT... IT'S KINDA COOL THAT HE'D F\*CK WITH YOU LIKE THAT. IT MEANS HE LIKES YOU A LOT, BUT DOESN'T REALLY LOVE YOU. MUST HAVE USED ALL OF THAT UP WHEN HE RESURRECTED JESUS A WHILE BACK."

"BUT AGAIN... I DIGRESS. WE'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT OUR PAL, **SPAWN**."






"IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S GONE A  
LITTLE CRAZY HIMSELF-- OR  
MORE SPECIFICALLY HIS SYMBIOTE  
HAS, AND THAT'S WHERE OUR  
**REAL PROBLEM** LIES!




"SO... I'M GOING TO LET YOU IN ON A FEW  
SECRETS-- SECRETS GOD PROBABLY WANTED  
TO KEEP AWAY FROM YOU. BUT WHEN I'M  
DONE, *I EXPECT YOU* TO FILL IN A FEW OF  
THE HOLES I'M WRESTLING WITH.



"NOW SIT BACK AND RELAX.  
THIS MIGHT TAKE AWHILE.



"YOU SEE, THE SYMBIOTE-- AT  
THIS VERY MOMENT-- IS OFF  
THREATENING OR KILLING  
SOME LOW LIFE SOMEWHERE  
IN THE WORLD. HOW DO I  
KNOW? BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT  
THE COSTUME DOES. IT'S  
WHAT IT WAS DESIGNED FOR--  
**TO KILL!**



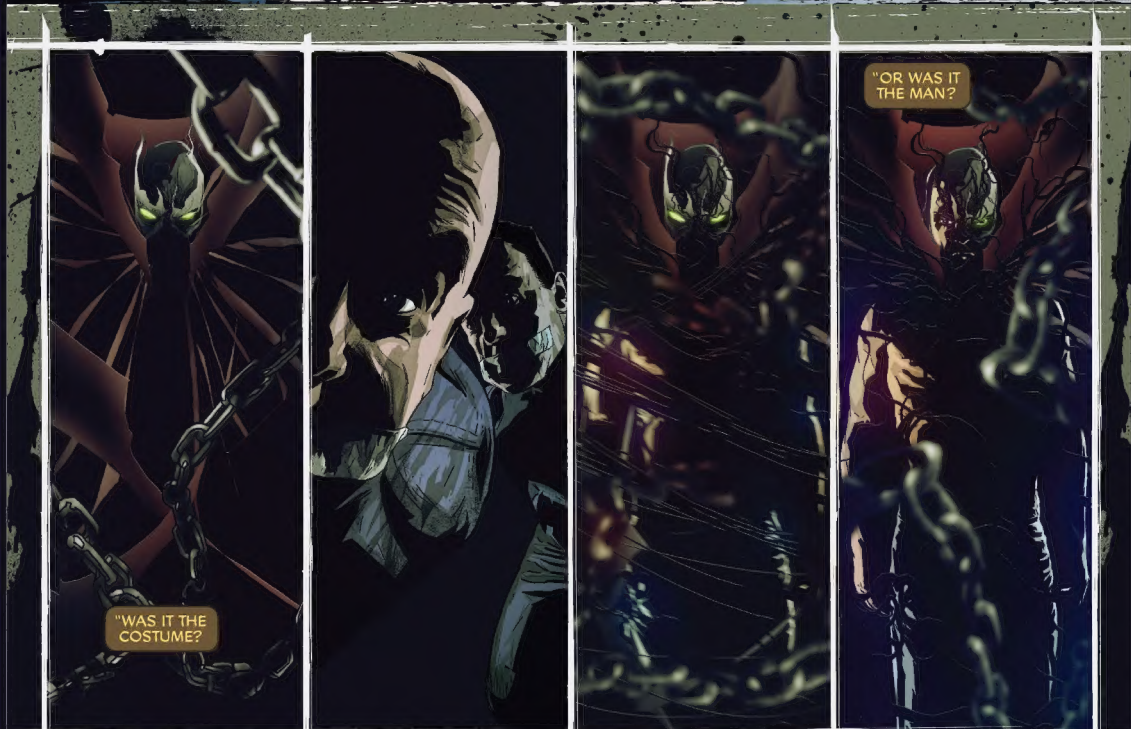
"YOU MAY HAVE FOUGHT A FEW  
SPAWNS IN THE PAST, BUT I BET IN  
ALL YOUR BATTLES YOU NEVER  
STOPPED TO ASK YOURSELF THESE  
FEW IMPORTANT QUESTIONS..."





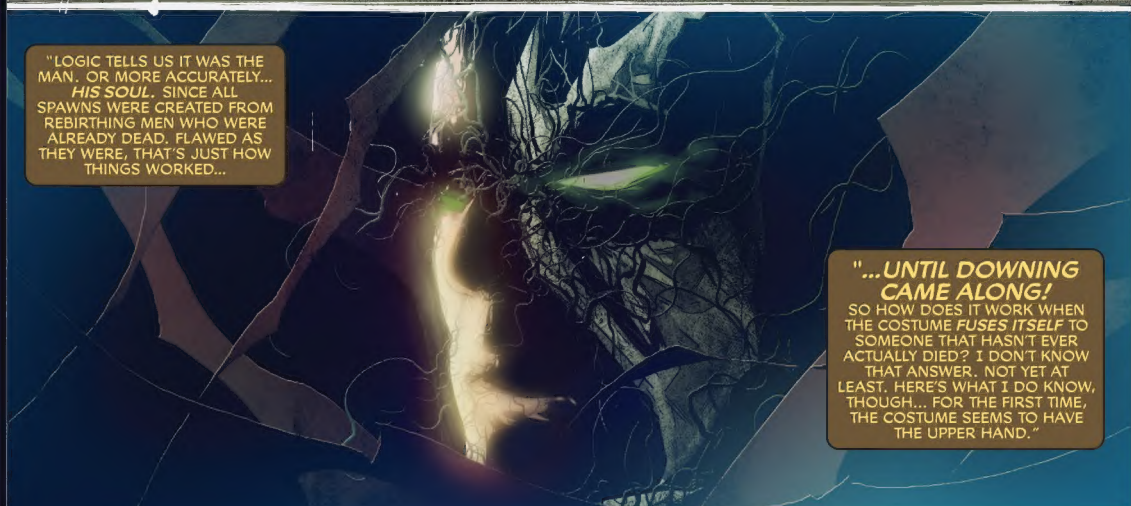


"LIKE WHO'S IN CONTROL? WHO ARE YOU ACTUALLY FIGHTING?"



"WAS IT THE COSTUME?"

"OR WAS IT THE MAN?"



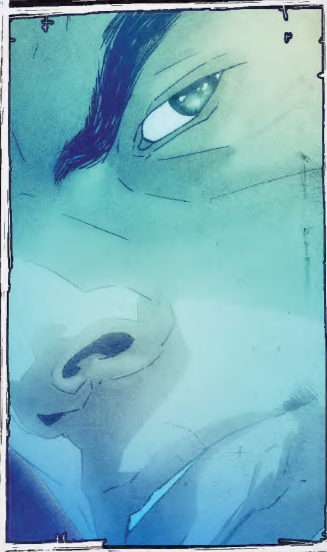
"LOGIC TELLS US IT WAS THE MAN. OR MORE ACCURATELY... *HIS SOUL*. SINCE ALL SPAWNS WERE CREATED FROM REBIRTHING MEN WHO WERE ALREADY DEAD. FLAWED AS THEY WERE, THAT'S JUST HOW THINGS WORKED..."

"...UNTIL DOWNING CAME ALONG!"

SO HOW DOES IT WORK WHEN THE COSTUME *FUSES ITSELF* TO SOMEONE THAT HASN'T EVER ACTUALLY DIED? I DON'T KNOW THAT ANSWER. NOT YET AT LEAST. HERE'S WHAT I DO KNOW, THOUGH... FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE COSTUME SEEMS TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND."



"AND THE MAN IS JUST BEING USED AS A PUPPET. THOUGH HE DOESN'T KNOW IT YET."



"THE QUESTION NOW IS, WHY? *WHY IS THE COSTUME DOING THIS?* WHAT'S IT TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?"

"LET ME GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE. LAST NIGHT IN MEXICO SOMEPLACE, THE COSTUME CAME OUT TO FEED. IT WAS DRAWN TO A GANG OF CORRUPT POLICEMEN WHO WERE HELPING A DRUG CARTEL BY MURDERING ANY OF THEIR OWN OFFICERS THAT WEREN'T WILLING TO BECOME AS CORRUPT AS THEY WERE.

"THE COSTUME-- FOR THE MOST PART-- DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT. IT WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN FEEDING. AND JUST SO YOU'RE CLEAR... THE COSTUME'S BEEN DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT NEARLY EVERY NIGHT WHILE DOWNING SLEEPS. IN THE MORNING-- OTHER THAN BEING TIRED-- DOWNING DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO HIM. *BUT!*... FROM TIME TO TIME THE COSTUME LETS DOWNING WAKE UP SO HE CAN JOIN THE SYMBIOTE IN HIS BLOODY SLAUGHTERS.

"IN THE MORNING-- FAR AS I CAN TELL-- DOWNING EITHER DOESN'T REMEMBER WHAT HE'S DONE OR HAS CHOSEN TO BLOCK IT FROM HIS MEMORIES... THINKING HE'S JUST HAVING SOME MESSED UP NIGHTMARES."



"THAT DENIAL IS EXACTLY WHAT THE COSTUME WANTS. BECAUSE-- LIKE A DRUG-- ONCE THE COSTUME GETS COMPLETELY INTO JIM'S BLOOD STREAM AND D.N.A., IT'LL BE IN CONTROL! THOUGH IT'S SMART ENOUGH TO LET DOWNING CONTINUE THINKING HE'S STILL THE DRIVING FORCE.

"MEANING, AT SOME POINT, DOWNING WILL BE SO ADDICTED TO THE COSTUME'S POWER THAT HE'LL DENY THERE'S EVEN A PROBLEM. OR THAT THERE'S ANY CAUSE FOR CONCERN. BECAUSE IT'LL ALL FEEL SO NATURAL TO HIM."

DON'T BE SCARED... I'M HERE TO HELP.

I WANT... I'M GOING TO REMOVE THAT TAPE. BUT YOU NEED TO REMAIN CALM. OKAY?

RIPP

<PLEASE!  
**PLEASE  
DON'T KILL  
ME!!**  
I BEG YOU!>\*

\*TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH

BUD!  
RELAX! IT'S  
JUST ME  
AND YOU...  
NOW CALM  
DOWN.



# BASHH

<THE  
DEVILS...  
THEY'VE  
COME!>

SHIT.

<THERE  
THEY ARE!  
**GET  
THEM!!**>

"AND THIS IS WHEN THE BRILLIANCE OF  
WHAT THE COSTUME IS PLANNING TAKES  
HOLD. BECAUSE EACH TIME DOWNING  
MOVES IN AND OUT OF THE SHADOWS,  
EACH TIME HIS HEART STARTS POUNDING,  
HIS ADRENALIN RACES.



THE **COSTUME WINS** BY  
SEEPING DEEPER INTO HIS SUB-  
CONSCIOUS, MAKING DOWNING  
EVEN MORE ADDICTED THAN BEFORE



BUT THE THING THAT HAS ME  
WORRIED THE MOST - THE THING  
THAT EVEN GOD SHOULD BE  
CONCERNED WITH




...IS DOWNING  
ACTUALLY SEEMS TO  
BE ENJOYING IT!



"BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THEY'RE  
HIS POWERS AND HIS ACTIONS!"







"IN HIS OWN WARPED LOGIC HE THINKS WHAT HE'S DOING IS GOOD!"

"MY GOAL IS TO FIND OUT WHAT ALL THIS MEANS! BECAUSE I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THERE'S A SPAWN WALKING EARTH WHO NEVER DIED BEFORE GETTING HIS POWERS? **HOW?** HOW DID SIMMONS TRANSFER HIS POWERS INTO DOWNING WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING ABOUT IT? HE WASN'T THAT SMART. SOMEONE WAS HELPING HIM. **THAT'S A PROBLEM!**"

"AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THAT. DO YOU KNOW WHY GOD SENT YOU AFTER THIS NEW SPAWN SO QUICKLY? BECAUSE HE KNEW A **PERFECT STORM** WAS BREWING. HE KNEW THERE'S NEVER BEEN-- IN THE ENTIRE EXISTENCE OF MANKIND-- A HUMAN LIKE JIM DOWNING! **NEVER!**"

"BECAUSE WHILE HE WAS IN HIS COMA HIS SOUL WAS TAKEN TO HEAVEN. YOU GUYS GRABBED HIS SPIRIT BEFORE YOU EVEN KNEW WHAT YOU HAD. THAT DOWNING'S SOUL TRIED TO MURDER GOD WHILE HE WAS THERE... THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM NOT MINE. WHAT COMPLETED JIM'S UNINTENDED JOURNEY WAS WHEN HEAVEN BARTERED HIM AWAY TO HELL FOR THE SOULS OF A FEW OTHERS."

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?"

"HE'S DONE SOMETHING NONE OF US EVER WILL. HIS SOUL HAS BEEN TO HEAVEN... HELL... AND EARTH! AND HE NEVER **DIED!!**"





THAT'S WHY THE COSTUME WANTS  
TO TAKE OVER THIS SPAWN. BECAUSE  
WHOEVER CONTROLS DOWNING  
**ULTIMATELY CONTROLS**  
THE UNIVERSE!!

IF HE EVER UNDERSTANDS THAT... IF HE EVER PUTS ALL  
THOSE PIECES TOGETHER, HE'LL HAVE THE POWER TO  
**DESTROY US ALL!**

AND THAT'S  
GOING TO  
BE ME!



BECAUSE IF WHAT I HEARD HAPPENED IN MEXICO— IS BUT A *SMALL FRACTION* OF WHAT JIM AND THE COSTUME ARE CAPABLE OF— MY NEED FOR CERTAIN ANSWERS HAS BECOME A PRIORITY.

SINCE YOU TWO ARE THE LAST...

...YOU GET TO LIVE.

I WANT YOU TO LEAVE HERE **NOW!** TELL YOUR BOSS TO LEAVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN ALONE.

IF HE DOESN'T-- I'LL BE BACK FOR ALL OF YOU!

**NOW GO!**



HOW...?

HOW'D I EVEN GET HERE?

<JOSE!  
CAN YOU HEAR ME? SEND YOUR BOYS TO THE FIELD... HE'S STILL THERE.>

<HURRY!  
HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M HERE YET!>





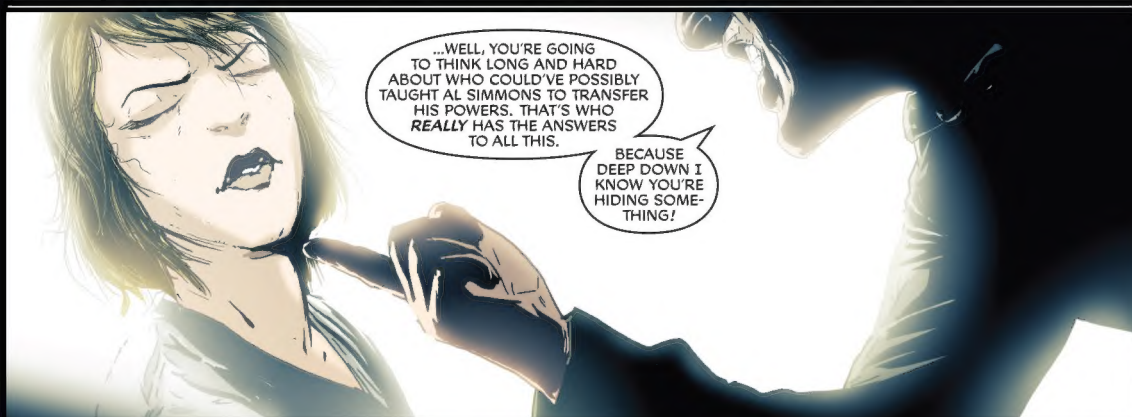






"LET ME SEE IF I CAN MAKE THIS EASY. I HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT AND YOU HAVE SOMETHING I WANT. SO WHY DON'T WE MAKE A TRADE? I STILL HAVE YOUR WINGS SOMEPLACE. YOU CAN HAVE THOSE BACK. AND FOR ME..."





# SLAM

NOW GET A GOOD REST.







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE